

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

AND

Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society.

VOL. II.

NEW YORK, JUNE, 1867.

No. 2.

PUBLISHED AT NEW YORK, ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH.

Contributions and all Communications, other than Advertisements, intended for notice or insertion in the JOURNAL, are to be addressed to

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NUMISMATICS AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES.

Can Numismatics ever become a popular pursuit among Americans? Does not this question simply mean:—Can a taste which gratifies, when cultivated, some of the strongest cravings of an intelligent mind, want numerous votaries among a sensitive and active race? And shall it not be answered at once in the affirmative?—

The desire of acquisition, restrained and refined, is not ignoble; and I feel all the rapture of a miser, unalloyed by his baseness, when in private I review my gold and silver, my copper, my nickel, and my tin. I am not, like the Athenian, in Horace, “*sordidus ac dives*”. The people do not hiss at me when abroad, and yet like him I can felicitate myself and say:

—“*mihi plaudo*
Ipse domi, simulac nummos contemplor in arca”.*

But, more than this, as has been often remarked, the intrinsic value of coins is the least part of the matter. Every coin or medal of historic interest is a potent talisman:—to evoke the past and people it with resuscitated life, to secure the present against oblivion, and give earthly immortality to its heroes. The owner of a numismatic cabinet is a necromancer and a ruler of the spirits, and can fill, at pleasure, his lonely chamber with shapes of the departed, and majestic phantasms. Undoubtedly man's intellectual part is his best part, and the poetry of Greece still lives in the extant page of Homer, her politics in that of Thucydides. If we can read them, we can, in imagination, live their better life by thinking their thoughts. But it so happens that material man dotes, and will dote, on material objects, “*earth's children cleave to earth*”, the imagination needs images, and if we can glance from our history of the Peloponnesian War to our rows of Athenian and Syracusan Tetradrachms, we think we know, and we really do know, more of the men, the manners, and the *miliee*.

Numismatic collection has one advantage over every other form of recreative accumulation. It is this. While the longest life would be insufficient to exhaust the subject in its vastness, and the most aged savant has yet much to learn, a child nevertheless may begin the pursuit, and reach, as far as his researches extend, a relative perfection of knowledge. If a boy possess half-a-dozen coppers and know all about them, so far he is an adept and no tyro. To increase his knowledge,

* Horace, Sat. I. 1, 67.

he has only to enlarge such acquaintance as every educated person possesses, or should possess, with History and with language, to alter its degree, not its kind, its quantity not its quality. But for the rational acquisition and arrangement of mineralogical, botanical, conchological specimens, a wearisome scientific apprenticeship is needful, for which not every one has taste or patience. A fondness for History, personal or national, is on the other hand, universal. Whether as fact or as fiction, human life must interest man. An uninformed person may look without any emotion at all on one of the elegant Five-Franc-Pieces which the first Napoleon issued during his "Hundred Days", but he must be a very block who regards with no feeling whatever the United States Cent which appeared in the same year wherein his humble self first saw the light of the sun.

Again, in our changeable climate of extremes, which banishes a Peabody to kindlier Europe, and amid the exigencies of our daily business life—frost-bound, as we are in Winter, storm-beaten in Spring, alternately scorched and drenched in Summer, and then whirled into the tide of traffic and sociality in our pleasant Autumn—what opportunity or leisure have we to cultivate, by actual inspection of Nature, that thorough and systematic knowledge of Natural Science without which scientific collection in general must be unsatisfactory? In Numismatics alone is a smattering of learning other than contemptible; and while the inhabitant of the city, if he be a Numismatist, can gratify his predilection without absenting himself from his business on exploring tours, so the country amateur, while there is, in the midst of us, a Cogan or a Woodward, to whom he may send his orders of purchase, enjoys advantages, hardly less ample than the New-Yorker himself, for the acquisition of curious coins.

We assume—for we anticipate no objection to the proposition—that every sort of scientific or artistic collection is in its tendency extremely refining and even moral. As such, it should be looked on with favor even by those who do not participate therein, and parents should encourage it in the children over whom they watch. It crowds out, as it were, from the mind, a mass of baser matter. In England, we believe, scarcely a young person of intelligence can be found, who does not, in common with contemporaries of kindred taste, devote himself to one or the other of the mutually cognate fields of investigation, and glean from it the materials of his little museum; while in the halls and castles of the aristocracy are stored, with benefit to the nation, and to the advancement of her fame abroad, the accumulated gatherings of successive generations. Is there anything unmanly, unsocial, or exclusive, as some Americans may perhaps sneeringly say, in an enlightened amusement like this, an amusement in which both sexes can innocently join, and in pursuing which, as all collectors know, and as is also the case in regard to blamable fancies and hobbies, the highest class of men are brought into friendly contact with others of less pretension? We have all heard the dreary small-talk of fashionable circles, the "horse-talk", sporting-talk, and other unmentionable talk, of the "stag-party"; and if Numismatics, Antiquarianism, or anything else, offer the likelihood of conversation which shall be a substitute for these, we say, in the name of all that is rational and pure, let us cultivate them, for the good of young and old!

A few words now as to Numismatic Societies. We have not been long connected with the one of which, in particular, this JOURNAL is the organ, and, without much experience as to its workings, must confess to some disappointment in regard to the character of its *séances*. At the same time we profess, as we feel, an earnest desire to aid in making them what they should be. An evening absorbed in the discussion of business, pure and simple, financial embarrassments, points of order, and the like, is neither recreative nor profitable. All such work should be done at other hours by Committees. On those Committees should be appointed men who wish to work. Wishing to work, they should be allowed to work uninterfered with and untrammelled. If there be no workers in the Society, we must move heaven and earth to enlist them in our ranks. At least three-fourths of the time of every regular meeting of the Society should be sacred to the purposes of the Society, viz.:

the exhibition, and elucidation by essay or through discussion, of Coins, Medals, and Antiquities. The organization was devised for the sake of Numismatics and Archaeology, not merely for the sake of organization.

If things should continue as they seem to be at present, it would be better, for practical purposes, that the JOURNAL should represent, or rather, take the place of, the Society, for discussion and all purposes of scientific inquiry, while the actual Society transforms itself virtually into a mere Committee of the Whole for the transaction of business. Nor would such a system be without redeeming features. We know not how far Numismatic Societies elsewhere resemble our own in this suppression of the objects of the Society through its own mere mechanism, but we presume that the same difficulty exists everywhere in different degrees. Consider now another circumstance in connection with this one. In every sort of Society the members naturally divide themselves into two classes: the Workers, of whom we have already spoken, and that more numerous class which corresponds to the "ventre" of the old French Convention, less opprobriously termed "la plaine." In a literary or scientific association such men do little or no work, rarely or never attending meetings, and yet lend it the influence of their names, and, by ready payment of dues and assessments, and subscription to publications, contribute essentially to its prosperity. In every respect but one they are most desirable associates. Only, the claims of wife and children, the relaxations of domestic or social converse, outweigh with them whatever attraction may reside in the scanty topics of antiquarian interest which succeed the dull debate. All these respectable and valuable members, of our own Society and others, could, on the system which we are inclined to advocate, take pleasant and profitable part in the strictly antiquarian proceedings, and in those alone, through the medium of a JOURNAL like ours, without quitting their own libraries, or stirring from their firesides.

By the general adoption of such a plan, the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS would become the organ of *all* our kindred Societies in the United States and Canada, as well as our own, and would furnish to the passive members of all of them, that is, to the great majority, an ample and agreeable substitute for actual and active attendance at meetings. We propose our own JOURNAL as this common organ, and general meeting-room—so to speak—of all American Archaeological Societies, not in any spirit of arrogance or assumption, but first, because it is already in existence, and may, with a little fostering care, be made to survive; secondly, because it exists in New York, the centre of American business, including Numismatics and every similar pursuit considered as mere branches of business.

We put forth no claims of superiority either for our Society or our Journal. In the "Proceedings of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia", just published, we read that, in regard to date, the Philadelphia Society is the first in America. It was, undoubtedly, the first to obtain a Charter: to priority of organization we ourselves lay claim. A matter this of little moment. We believe, on the other hand, and cheerfully recognize, what is of more importance: that, owing to the influence of the U. S. Mint over the citizens of Philadelphia, and no less to the culture, literary and artistic, which eminently characterizes them, it was there that the true numismatic spirit first appeared in our country. Boston, too, can doubtless boast of the superior profoundness of her laborers in this department, as in other fields, and point with approval to the greater favor which those tastes have met with among the higher classes of her population. Baltimore, Cincinnati, and places of inferior note, have their collectors and cognoscenti, and over none of all these would New Yorkers wish to usurp supremacy.

If, on the contrary, these scattered votaries of a humanizing and harmonizing science will unite in giving countenance and support to this JOURNAL of ours, as being what we call it—an *American Journal*; if they will contribute to its pages all such lighter matter as they may not think proper to publish for themselves in the form of book, pamphlet, or proceedings; if they will communicate to us

those multitudinous little items of knowledge whereof each antiquarian has his private stock ; and not forget, meanwhile, to subscribe and procure subscribers, that our sinews may be strengthened, and the load of our loins lightened :—then indeed may our vision be eventually realized, and this periodical become a broad organism, including as its separate but coöperating members, the isolated antiquarian associations of the whole Continent.

THOSE "GOOD OLD TIMES".

We have before us a straight hunting-sword, of German origin, and of the kind technically called "Hirschfaenger", intended for wounded stags and boars to impale themselves upon in their onset. The Hilt is a fine piece of buck-horn, mounted with brass embossed in appropriate designs. The blade is about two feet long, and two-edged for one-third of its length : an admirable bit of steel, engraved with hunting-scenes and scroll-work. From about six inches from the hilt to about the same distance from the point, runs, in two lines, the following inscription, illustrating, in its cool cynicism, social distinctions, which, on this side of the ocean, we have never known, and from which, to a great degree, the French Revolution delivered Europe. For the English version we are ourselves responsible :

Das Jagen ist ein altes Recht,
Das gehört vor dem Adel und sein Geschlecht,
Und sonst vor grosse Herren ;
Der Baur mus sich nicht daran fehren :

Darumb thut der Baur oft flagen,
Das er dem Herren mus helfen jagen,
Und doch nicht ein Wilt mag schiessen,
Noch ein wenig davon genissen.

Hunting is an ancient Right,
Belongs to nobles and men of might,
And their pure and lofty race ;
The peasant has naught to do with the chase :

Hence by the peasant clamor is made,
That in the hunt his lords he must aid,
Yet never himself may shoot a buck,
Or under his belt one morsel tuck.

Let us rejoice that we, who must, as a general thing, be descended, at an interval of two or three centuries only, from the trans-Atlantic serf and peasant, have not, like our ancestors, to live in the days of that cold-blooded oppression to which this curious weapon, probably not more than a century old, bears irrefutable witness.

THE ORIGINAL DOLLAR.

[Read before the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, Thursday evening, May 9, 1867.]

The phrase "The Almighty Dollar", so grossly materialistic in the idea which it conveys, originated, as we are informed by Bartlett,* with Washington Irving, one of the most refined and sentimental of writers.

How the word "Dollar", considered by itself, originated, is not perhaps as well known as it ought to be, among those over whom it is said to be omnipotent. The name is undoubtedly German, being slightly altered from "Thaler", itself a derivative of "Thal", a valley. In Joachimsthal, or Joachim's Valley, situated in the Erzgebirge, or Ore-Mountains, which separate Bohemia, on its north-western side, from the kingdom of Saxony, and a little north of the present aristocratic watering-place, Karlsbad, were silver mines which belonged, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, and we know not how long before and after, to the Counts of Schlick. In 1517 or 1518, at the very time, therefore, when the precious metal of the Reformation was being minted—minted with the name of Martin Luther—, these Counts of Schlick began to coin pieces of silver of one ounce avoirdupois in weight. It is true that, for a whole generation before, some few silver coins, identical in weight with these, had been struck in other places ; and we notice one, in foreign catalogues, styled a "Thaler" of Archduke Sigismund in the Tyrol, of the year 1484 ; but it was not till the appearance of these Bohemian one-ounce pieces that, owing doubtless to the convenience and expressiveness of the word "Thaler" to German organs, as well as from the number and goodness of the pieces themselves, their new name became current and supplanted permanently whatever other designation for them may have once prevailed. Some Germans, indeed, preferred to call them "Schlickianer" (Schlickians), or "Joachimer" (Joachimites) ; but the term "Thaler", or valley-pieces, triumphed over these uncouth antagonists, and was translated by the Latin writers of the time either literally, Vallenses, or in reference to the weight of the coin, Unciales. In Russia, however, we are told, a dollar is still called *Jepbimock*, from Joachim.

* "Dictionary of Americanisms", Boston, 1860, p. 7.

The following is a description of one of these "Original Dollars", as it now lies before us in very good preservation, though primitive in design and execution. Obv, The Bohemian Lion, highly *rampant*, with a bifurcated tail symmetrically twisted. In the language of Heraldry this bearing is: Gules, a lion rampant, queue fourchée, argent, crowned or. Hence these dollars, and all that come after them, whether with the lion, or without, were known in Turkey as "Lion-Dollars". In a ring of tall characters on the margin around the lion: LVDOVICVS: PRIM: D: GRACIA: R: BO:; Louis the First, by the Grace of God, King of Bohemia. Rev, A full-length figure of an aged man, with a wand in his left hand, and, from his right knee to the ground, the Arms of Schlick. At his right hip, S; at his left, I: for *Sanctus Joachimus*. In the same position and character as on the Obverse, a legend, viz.: AR: DOMI: SLI: STE: ET: FRA: COM: D: B:; equivalent to "Arma Dominorum Slicensium Stephani et Fratrum Comitum de Basan", or, in English: The Arms of the lords of Schlick, Stephen and his Brothers, Counts of Basan". A natural curiosity, which we regret being unable to satisfy, will at once arise as to whether "Sam Slick" did not represent a plebeian American twig, and "Don Cæsar de Bazañ" a patrician European branch of the family-tree of these noble dollar-devisers.

The Dollar before us has no date, and it may therefore be considered certain that it was struck before 1525; for there are pieces extant similar in all respects to this one, except that they bear that date, whereas Stephen, Count of Schlick, was killed in battle against the Turks, 1526, at Mohacz, in Hungary; and the coinage with his name consequently ceased. Stephen's liege-lord, whose name also appears on this earliest dollar, Louis, King of Bohemia and Hungary, perished miserably, by being suffocated in a marsh, as he fled from the same disastrous field—a prince of whom we read the following extraordinary statements. He was born prematurely, at the cost of his mother's life; at his birth he was almost without skin; he was betrothed before he was born; crowned in his second year; on the throne in his tenth; had a beard in his fourteenth; was married in his fifteenth; became gray in his eighteenth; and was killed at Mohacz in his twentieth!

Through his sister Anna, who married the Archduke Ferdinand, brother of Charles V., and afterwards himself Emperor by the title of Ferdinand I., the crown of Hungary and Bohemia passed to the house of Habsburg, with which it still remains.

In other Teutonic languages besides the English, the name for the Dollar is a corruption of the German "Thaler": thus, in Swedish and Danish, we have "Daler"; in Dutch, "Daalder". In the Romance languages even, we have the Italian "Talero"; while, in French, the word "Dollar" is completely naturalized. The French colonial term "Gourde", not much used in the mother-country, is current in Martinique and Guadalupe as an equivalent for the Spanish "gordo", thick, which in this connection has the force of "duro", hard, or "fuerte", strong, each used as a suffix to "peso". This last word "peso" is the legitimate Spanish for "Dollar". It means, primarily, "weight", and, by implication, the weight of one ounce. Far more, beyond a doubt, of these Spanish, or rather Hispano-American, dollars have been coined, than of any other variety; and they are piled up, we may conjecture, by millions, in the treasures of Eastern nations, which, rejecting our manufactures, take our silver with avidity. Not a few United States Dollars must have found their way to the same regions, where perhaps, at this moment, some rare 1794 is lying, neglected and unconscious of its native worth. The name "Piastre", Italian *piastra*, still given to the Dollar in Italy and the Spanish colonies, but obsolescent, signified, in the first instance, a "thin plate of metal"; and the Roman "Scudo", corresponding to the French "Ecu", meaning literally "a shield", refers to the Coat of Arms, emblazoned on those forms of the Dollar.

If, by these remarks, we may have imparted additional *interest* to the American Dollar, we shall be disposed to think that to that extent we have realized the "Rosa Americana" motto, by combining "Utile Dulci", the Useful with the Agreeable.

C. E. A.

ENCOURAGING.—Let not faithful delvers in the rich mine of Numismatics be disheartened by any blunders which they may chance to commit. It is only by blundering that one is at length made wise, by groping and stumbling that one at last becomes sure-footed. In our science, as in most others, the Germans are the guides of the world; and whatever progress we may have made therein may well appear to them but paltry and contemptible; yet even we may indulge in a sly laugh at their expense, when we read in a German work of merit, Schmid's "Clavis Numismatica", the following laboriously absurd misstatements about a common piece, well known to all American collectors, the "Constellatio Nova" of 1785:—

"Historical Explanation.—The thirteen stars on the Obverse denote the thirteen United States of Holland; but what can be meant by "nova constellatio" is impossible to determine with accuracy, because about this time, before and after the year 1785, so many political events took place in the Netherlands, that it would be very bold to designate decidedly the one which gave the particular and actual occasion to the coin under our notice"!

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—*The American Numismatic and Archaeological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archaeological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "Prof. CHAS. E. ANTHON, Cor. Sec'y, College of the City of New York," will receive prompt attention.*

Regular Meeting, May 9, 1867.—Dr. Perine, Vice-President, in the chair. Members present: Messrs. Anthon, Burns, E. Groh, H. Groh, Hanna, Hewitt, Homer, Levick, Norton, Oliver, Parish, Smith, Ten Eyck, Wood.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved, and adopted, both as recorded and as printed in the JOURNAL.

The special business being the election of President for the remainder of the term, Messrs. Homer and Hewitt were appointed Tellers; and, on motion, each member deposited his ballot at the call of his name by the Recording Secretary. Mr. E. Y. Ten Eyck, having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared elected, and, on being conducted to the chair by a committee, returned thanks for the honor conferred on him, and briefly explained the general principles on which he purposed to conduct his administration.

A ballot for Treasurer in place of Mr. Ten Eyck resulted in the election of Mr. J. N. Y. Levick.

The Editorial Committee submitted the May number of the JOURNAL, issued that day, as evidence of their labors; and announced that they should endeavor to bring out each succeeding number earlier than its predecessor, till they attained the proper time of publication, namely, a little before the first of each month, in order that distant subscribers might be punctually supplied by that date. Accepted.

The Finance Committee reported having met and audited the accounts of the late Treasurer, Mr. Hanna, which were declared to be correct. Adopted.

Mr. Norton announced a valuable donation from Mr. A. B. Sage, which would appear at the next meeting. Mr. Sage, who was present by invitation of a member, was tendered the thanks of the Society.

From Alf. Sandham, Esq., of Montreal, was received the lead impression of the "Un Sou," more particularly described in the JOURNAL for May, and the thanks of the Society were voted in acknowledgment.

Mr. Hewitt presented a donation of a portion of the effects of the late New York Numismatic Society from Mr. Jos. E. Gay, and a vote of thanks was returned.

Mr. A. S. Gardiner was nominated for membership by Dr. Perine. Laid over, according to rule.

Mr. J. Henry Vail, of Tarrytown, N. Y., was elected a Corresponding Member, on proposal by Mr. F. A. Wood.

Prof. Anthon read a paper entitled "The Original Dollar", illustrated by a specimen of that piece from his cabinet.

Mr. Wood moved that a Committee of Three be appointed to examine, and report at the next meeting, what amendments to the By-Laws may be necessary for the welfare of the Society; which was adopted, and Messrs. Wood, Parish, and Perine were, on motion, appointed such Committee by the Chair.

On motion, adjourned.

JAMES OLIVER, Recording Secretary.

Regular Meeting, May 23, 1867.—President Ten Eyck in the chair. Twelve other members present. Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

The President appointed the Standing Committees for the year 1867-68, as follows: *American Coins and Medals*—Messrs. Hewitt, Hanna and Wood; *Foreign Coins and Medals*—Messrs. Anthon, Oliver and Defendorf; *Library and Transactions*—Messrs. Parish, H. Groh and Smith; *Autographs and Manuscripts*—Messrs. Homer, Norton and Mackenzie; *Paper Money*—Messrs. Burns, Greenwood and Seymour; *American Archaeology*—Messrs. E. Groh, Perine and Anthon; *Foreign Archaeology*—Messrs. Defendorf, Norton and Parish; *Finance*—Messrs. Perine, Levick and Hewitt.

The following Special Committees were recapitulated, having been, at various times, ordered by the Society: *By-Laws and Constitution*—Messrs. Wood, Parish and Perine; *Editorial Committee*—Messrs. Perine, Anthon and Ten Eyck; *Lincoln Medal*—Messrs. Ten Eyck, Anthon and Parish.

The Report of the late Treasurer, Mr. Ten Eyck, was read, accepted, and referred to the Finance Committee.

The Committee on Library and Transactions made a Report, including an offer on the part of Mr. Wood to have the MS. Transactions of the Society bound, which offer was thankfully accepted and the matter left in Mr. Wood's charge.

A Special Committee submitted the following correspondence on a subject in regard to which they had been appointed at a previous meeting:

NEW YORK, May 16, 1867.

REV. WM. WOOD SEYMOUR:

DEAR SIR:—At a late meeting of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to confer with you in reference to the preparation and delivery before the Society, at such time as may be agreed on, of a Lecture or Paper on the History and Antiquities of THE CROSS, considered with a view to their illustration in Numismatics and other departments of Archaeology. This desire on the part of the Society has been prompted by their knowledge of the learning and enthusiasm which you have long been devoting to a topic so full of interest to every Christian mind. We therefore earnestly solicit you to comply with our wishes, and trust that you will find it convenient to gratify and benefit us by communicating some portion of the result of your researches. An early reply will greatly oblige

Yours very respectfully and truly,

CHAS. E. ANTHON,
F. A. WOOD,
DANIEL PARISH, JR., } Committee.

NEW YORK, May 20, 1867.

MESSRS. CHAS. E. ANTHON, F. A. WOOD, DANIEL PARISH, JR.:

GENTLEMEN:—Your note of the 16th inst., requesting me to read before the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society a Paper on "The History and Antiquities of THE CROSS, considered with a view to their illustration in Numismatics and other departments of Archaeology", has been received. I shall be happy to comply with your complimentary request at such time as may be convenient to the Society. Perhaps as the first June meeting is the one designated for such papers, it may be appropriate.

Very truly yours,

WM. WOOD SEYMOUR.

The Special Committee on By-Laws and Constitution reported progress, asking leave to defer their final report to an early meeting in the Fall, and recommending, as a provisional amendment, that the Minutes of each meeting be henceforward read and verified immediately before the adjournment of the same.

The President was unanimously invited to designate Rev. Mr. Seymour as reader of a Paper, for the first meeting in June, which he did, appointing also Messrs. Wood and Hewitt to read Papers at the second meeting in the same month.

The investment of certain moneys proceeding from a donation of the late New York Numismatic Society, and from the sale of coins presented by Mr. Wood was, by resolution, provided for.

The following donations were received, and the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to acknowledge them with thanks, in the case of non-resident donors. From Mr. Sage, Dies of various Series formerly published by him; from the Philadelphia Numismatic Society, their Volume of Proceedings; from Mr. Levick, old Paper-Money, and an Almanac for 1799; from Mr. Hewitt, the Minute-Book of the late New York Numismatic Society; from Mr. Roberts, a Document signed by Sir Wm. Johnson. A letter from R. W. McLachlan, Esq., Montreal, offering specimens of antiquities excavated by him in that city, was read, and the offer gratefully accepted through the Corresponding Secretary.

The Corresponding Secretary laid before the Society the following important letter:

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, PHILADELPHIA, May 22, 1867.

PROF. CHARLES E. ANTHON, Secretary American Numismatic Society:

SIR:—I lately addressed a note to my friend, A. Ramsay McCoy, Esq., of your city, requesting him to bring certain inquiries before your Society. I will now more particularly say, that the new Director of the United States Mint, Hon. Henry R. Linderman, is very anxious to place the department of the mint which supplies medals and proof coins, upon a right and permanent basis; and to annex thereto, the distribution of pattern coins, hitherto distributed or withheld without any rule. This latter branch has grown into importance, not so much by its own intrinsic merit, as by the fancy or ambition which makes an eager competition, and creates a high price, for such pieces. Properly speaking, they ought to be limited to their original purpose, and of course to a very small number of pieces. But it is found, that the attempt to make this limitation is futile, and the smaller the number struck, the greater is the danger of abuse, and partiality.

The question therefore arises, what would best satisfy collectors in general; whether to go back, and strike pattern pieces of former years, so far as the dies are extant; or to let the past alone; and strike nothing, whether pattern or regular, except within the year of its date. The next question is whether, from this time henceforth, all applicants, within the year of striking, shall be able to obtain pattern pieces; paying a good price therefor, and ceasing to have that opportunity after the year has expired, so as not to make the pieces too cheap and uninteresting. A standing order will of course prevent any omission.

It is also proposed to stop the irregularity of coining fancy pieces by the hybrid crossing of dies; or of using dies for gold and silver upon any but their proper metal; devices which create a spirited bidding, but do not dignify the numismatic pursuit.

It would be acceptable also to have the opinion of your Society, as to the propriety of putting any *real* head (in opposition to *ideal*) upon any of our coins. We have been urged to do justice to the Discoverer of America, by putting his effigy on

the five cent token; and we have made some trials of the head of the Father of his Country; but hitherto, the prevailing voice has been against this exaltation, even of one long since departed; or any imitation of the usage of monarchical countries.

Whatever regulations are adopted, in the foregoing matters, will be put in print, and one or more copies sent to your Society.

Very respectfully,

W. E. DUBOIS,

Assistant Assayer, and Principal Curator of the Mint Cabinet.

On motion, referred to the Committee on American Coins and Medals; and the Corresponding Secretary was directed to write, in the mean time, to Mr. Dubois, thanking him and Hon. Henry R. Linderman for this friendly consultation of the Society, and assuring them that every effort shall be made on its part for the continuance of relations so desirable.

Dr. Wm. C. Horne, and J. A. Amelung, Jr., were proposed as Resident Members; and Mr. A. S. Gardner was elected Resident Member.

A Paper on Recent Discoveries of Coins, was read by Mr. Parish.

On motion of Vice-President Perine, the Society adjourned to hold its first regular June meeting at his residence, No. 6 East Twenty-second street.

JAMES OLIVER, *Recording Secretary.*

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, May 2. The Society was called to order by the Secretary; and Dr. Lewis, Ex-President, was chosen to fill the place of the President, who was absent. The report of the previous meeting was read and accepted. Mr. Davenport exhibited two German silver medals, which he had for sale. The Secretary showed several silver pieces, selected on account of their large size. The largest is of size 49; on one side is King Ladislaus IV., of Poland, on horseback at the head of his army, receiving ambassadors of the Turks and Swedes bearing olive branches; the reverse represents the victory in which the same king defeated the Russians, and raised the siege of Smolensko. Another of size 47, of Rudolph Augustus, of Brunswick, has a very curious reverse. It shows a small village among the mountains, on which the sun is shining; in the foreground a maiden standing on a snail, and playing on a guitar, seems to represent Peace; the legend is, "Tu tandem abjectam reddes Deus alme sonor". A medal of size 46 was struck in 1716 by Count Waldstein, in memory of his ancestor, who in 1254 led twenty-four sons to the wars of Primislaus, King of Bohemia. Another, a little smaller, commemorates the marriage of Ladislaus IV., of Poland, with Cecilia Renata, Archduchess of Austria. Another was struck in 1631, at the completion of the Church of Santa Maria della Salute, at Venice; on one side is the Doge Nicolas Contarini, on his knees before the Church; and on the reverse is a view of the Doge's Palace and the Piazzetta of San Marco. The smallest piece is a silver coin of ten francs, of the Republic of Geneva, 1848. These pieces attracted much attention and admiration. The Society adjourned soon after 5 P. M.

RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

Regular Meeting, April 15, 1867.—The President in the chair. The Records of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Richard B. Winsor was unanimously elected a Member of the Association.

The President exhibited a Maximilian Dollar, which attracted the attention of the Society, the members not being able distinctly to discern the figure attributed to this piece. C. T. Metcalf exhibited the rare silver Medal of Washington Allston, by C. C. Wright; and Mr. R. B. Chambers, two rare Washington Half Dollars.

The Secretary announced the donation from Mr. G. T. Paine of a number of Catalogues.

On motion, the Association adjourned.

JOHN J. MEADER, *Secretary.*

Regular Meeting, May 20, 1867.—The President in the chair. The Records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. C. L. Pendleton was unanimously elected a Member of the Association.

The President read an interesting paper on Colonial Coins, the first of a series of articles on American Coinage, which elicited a pleasant discussion among the members.

Mr. Paine read several extracts from the NUMISMATIC JOURNAL, and urged the importance of sustaining such a publication, and alluded in an especial manner to the valuable matter contained in the published list of Copperheads and Confederate Currency. The improved typographical appearance of the JOURNAL, and its increased size, met the warm approbation of the Association.

The Committee on Debates proposed, for investigation and discussion at the next meeting, "The Castorland Half Dollar."

Mr. Hersey exhibited some foreign coin of interest, and the Association adjourned.

JOHN J. MEADER, *Secretary.*

REVIEW.

Proceedings of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, from May 4, 1865, to December 31, 1866. Philadelphia: Printed for the Society, 1867. 8vo, pp. 160.

The price of this volume is three dollars; and in a Circular issued simultaneously with its publication, on the third ult., those desiring to purchase are invited to forward the amount to either of the following gentlemen, forming the Committee of Publication, when it will be sent according to direction: Henry Phillips, Jr., 524 Walnut street; Wm. S. Vaux, 1700 Arch street; Alfred B. Taylor, 1015 Chestnut street. The edition consists of two hundred and fifty copies only.

As the Numismatic Society of Philadelphia was the first in our country to have a chartered existence, so the Numismatic and Antiquarian, the broader-winged fledgling of that extinct association, is now the first to give to the public a report of its proceedings. For the zeal and enterprise thus manifested, it deserves high commendation; and, though the desire and intention of the Society to publish annually a similar volume may fail of their fulfilment, yet one such collection as this, complete in itself, and containing much useful information, is both a monument of progress and a pledge of future progression.

In the Preface we find the following notice of a service rendered to American amateurs by the old, or "Numismatic" Society:

"Perhaps one of the most important of its actions, was the adoption, in September, 1858, of a new scale of measurement for coins and medals, in place of that of Mionnet, which is the one in general use throughout Europe. The divisions of Mionnet's scale are irregular, and apparently arbitrary. Of the printed copies of that scale, which chiefly had been in use in this country up to this time, no two could be found exactly alike, while many of them differed very materially in their divisions. After well considering the subject, the Society adopted as its scale the divisions of the inch into sixteenths, such a measure being readily understood and always to be obtained without difficulty. This scale has been generally adopted throughout the United States, and is known as the 'American Scale'."

Almost sixty pages of this publication are taken up by the Minutes of the Society, valuable chiefly as affording, in many cases, to members of similar organizations, precedents or prototypes for their own action. An Appendix to the Minutes comprises brief Obituary Notices of four deceased members: Messrs. Hall, Collet, Davids, and F G. Vaux, the last only eighteen years of age.

Eight Dissertations follow, on subjects antiquarian or numismatic. The titles of these Essays our readers may be pleased to peruse. They are: "Some Observations on Early Currency of Maryland, by Henry Phillips, Jr.;" "Golden Relics from Chiriqui, by Alfred B. Taylor;" "Remarks on Tlalpan, Mexico, occasioned by the reported Discovery of Remains of Ancient Cities in that locality, by Charles H. Hart;" "Some Considerations on the best means of promoting the efficiency and extending the usefulness of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, by Henry Phillips, Jr.;" "Medicine and Astrology", by the same author; "The Diary of John Pemberton", 1777-1778, edited, from the MSS. in the possession of the Society, by Eli K. Price; "The Pleasures of Numismatic Science, by Henry Phillips, Jr."; and "A Historical Sketch of the National Medals, issued pursuant to Resolution of Congress, 1776-1815, by Chas. H. Hart." These are all meritorious productions; and those of Mr. Phillips, in particular, are distinguished by much scholarship and elegance of style. He well observes:

"Fossils have been aptly styled 'The Medals of Creation'; we may truthfully reverse this saying, and designate coins as 'the fossils of humanity'";—

and the contribution whence this remark is taken, entitled "The Pleasures of Numismatic Science", is a neat résumé of the considerations which recommend that pursuit, and silence its contemners.

But we would suggest, as a principle to be applied to future volumes, that, in a compilation like the one before us, we ought to find more of fact and less of reflection; more data and less induction; more exploration and discovery, less surveying of what is already known. If some special topic, no matter how minute, were taken up and carefully examined in a fugitive paper similar to these, with the aid of unpublished manuscripts and neglected statements in print, the result would be more satisfactory than any vague talking *about* matters and things. It is wonderful that so little should be accurately known concerning some of the commonest American coins and medals; and the first aim of Numismatic Societies should be to throw light on these familiar *incognitos*. At the risk of betraying our own ignorance on a point which many may be well acquainted with, we will state

that, knowing nothing of the origin of the fine Medal of Alexander Hamilton, First Secretary of the Treasury, bearing his Bust on the Obverse, and, on the Reverse, the United States Treasury, with the Legend: "To Public Credit, 1795", we addressed ourselves lately to a source whence the amplest information might reasonably have been expected, the distinguished son and biographer of that illustrious man, and editor of his works. He replied that he had never known of even the existence of the Medal commemorative of his father, till it was thus brought under his notice. Does not this incident therefore serve to exemplify a class of subjects which might with propriety and definite advantage be thoroughly investigated?

The Papers contributed by Messrs. Taylor, Hart, and Price, contain however, in common with those of Mr. Phillips, very much that is permanently interesting and valuable. The Publication, as a whole, is most creditable to its originators, and is worthy of all encouragement. May it prove to be but the first link in a continuous chain, an endless series!

The present Editorial Committee of this Journal have it much at heart to cultivate friendly relations with the numismatists of Philadelphia. While these latter reserve their weightier essays for the "Proceedings" which they have now so auspiciously commenced, we trust that they will ever look on our pages as freely open for their lighter efforts. A querulous temper in regard to the authorities of the Mint may have been thought to characterize our previous numbers. For this tone of carping and complaint we hope to substitute a kindlier spirit of recommendation and advice. To us the change cannot but be beneficial; to the Government in its monetary affairs our good will may recall the fable of the mouse doing service to the lion.

OUR NATIONAL COINAGE.

Editor Journal of Numismatics:

In the May number of the JOURNAL I am glad to see you have promised not to cease advocating a change from the tedious monotony of our national coinage. I do hope the JOURNAL will command and use an influence powerful enough to bring about this exceedingly desirable change. Our mint officials have labored, and spared no expense or pains, to perfect the artistic execution of our coinage. The most complicated and improved machinery has been invented and used, and our method is so far superior to the clumsy modes before employed by the English and European mints, that they have gladly availed themselves of its advantages. And what has resulted from all these improvements in the minting of our coin? The result has been to supply us with perhaps the tamest and most uninteresting series that the world ever saw!

When we look back on the rich and varied history of the Republic, so full of victories both of war and peace, so full of eventful change and growth, which might, with such appropriateness, have been commemorated, year by year, on our coinage, it seems to me that the lover of history and of art must regret the neglect. During the last six years, for instance, while our country has been the arena of struggles that have convulsed the whole civilized world, while the nation was gasping for existence in its direst need, our regular coinage has quietly kept on the even tenor of its way. With the exception of the new and most appropriate motto, "In God we trust" (which, by the way, I am sorry to see has been ridiculed in the JOURNAL), the regular series shows no sign by which the student of future ages would be led to suspect that the normal condition of peace and prosperity had been interrupted. I am of course not speaking of the outside issue of what we may call the "siege pieces" which the government has been driven into issuing.

As an example to show in how interesting a manner a nation's history may be written on its coinage, look at the grand series of Rome. Were all her written records lost, the student might more or less plainly read the story of the rise, the magnificent pre-eminence, and the gradual decline and fall of this great people, from their extant coinage. Their monuments and triumphal arches have fallen, and 'twas found

"Vain to trust
The faithless column and the crumbling bust;
Huge moles, whose shadow stretched from shore to shore,
Their ruins perished, and their place no more!"

But the long and magnificent history of their centuries of glory is still commemorated on these lasting monuments. And on them we read not only the history of events, but the history of Roman art. In the earlier and purer days of the Republic we find a coinage rude, but bold and grand. As we pass along the series, its artistic merit increases, till it reaches its culminating point under the earlier emperors. From this period slowly and fluctuatingly it declines, seeming to keep even step with the gradual decay which took place in the spirit and character of the people, till it is wholly lost in the night of the dark ages.

We cannot, to be sure, be too grateful to the founders of the Republic, that in resisting the temptation to adorn their currency with the noble features of Washington, they escaped establishing a precedent, and thereby spared us the possible humiliation of having our money decked with the effigies of Tylers and Buchanans, after the manner of the Charles the Seconds and George the Fourths of the English series. We can see how narrow was the escape when we look at our fractional currency, embellished with the likenesses of Clark and Spinner.

A step in the right direction has been taken in illustrating upon our national bank bills a number of interesting events in the history of our country, such as the landing of Columbus, the discovery of the Mississippi by De Soto, and the baptism of Pocahontas. In the infancy of our national coinage a slight effort was made aright, in the attempt to add a star on the admission of each new State; but the mint officials soon became frightened at the prospective size of the rapidly growing galaxy, and quickly fell back on the original thirteen.

Notwithstanding the English were glad to borrow our improvements in Mint machinery, we all know in what contempt our coinage is held among numismatists in England and Europe, on account of its utter lack of interest. In fact, what lover of Numismatics among us has not become sick of the tantalizing Eagle, with his wings half extended, as if to fly away? Would that he might gratify us by spreading them fully and taking his final flight from our coinage, never more to be seen again!—Who is not sick of the senseless head, so utterly devoid of character, that, after the lapse of three-quarters of a century, it has still to be labeled "Liberty", to designate what idea is meant to be represented? A temple, or a pole labeled "Liberty", would be fully as appropriate.

"Sir", said Dr. Johnson to Boswell "when you receive silver in exchange for a guinea, look carefully at it; you may chance to find a curious piece".—Were we happily a specie receiving and paying people, and were we restricted to our own coinage, we would assuredly be spared the trouble of examining our change with any such an object in view, always excepting, of course, our modern debased coinage. Were the old lexicographer living to-day, and should he come across one of these latter truly curious pieces of money, verily it would make him "gasp and stare".

I will close by reiterating the hope that due effort will be made in the pages of your JOURNAL, to bring about this important improvement.

A. C. R.

NEW YORK, May 17, 1867.

AN ITEM FOR NUMISMATOLOGISTS.

A San Francisco journal says that a firm in that city have perhaps the only complete set of American coins in the hands of private individuals in the United States. They have the American silver dollar for every year, from 1794 to 1866, half dollars from 1794 to 1867, quarter dollars from 1796 to 1867, dimes from 1796 to 1861, half dimes from 1794 to 1867, cents from 1723 to 1867, three-cent pieces from 1851 to 1867, two-cent pieces from 1863 to 1867, and half cents from 1793 to 1857. This collection has occupied more than fifteen years of Mr. Repiton's time, and cost about twenty thousand dollars. As an instance of the rarity of some of the coins we will state that the silver dollar of 1801 costs \$950, and Mr. Repiton had, before he succeeded in finding one he could purchase, made an unsuccessful tender of \$1,500 for one in possession of a gentleman residing in Salem, Massachusetts. Of the silver dollars of 1838 only eighteen were minted, and consequently they are very rare. The silver dollar of 1852 is also very rare, and is rated by numismatologists at from \$300 to \$500. Besides this collection of American coins they have specimens of the coins of nearly all nations, and some coins over two thousand years old. The coins are a great curiosity, and their owners could readily sell them for \$50,000.

299 STATE STREET, BROOKLYN, 18th May, 1867.

DEAR SIR:

The above item I cut out yesterday from the "Evening Post", and I purpose to make a few observations through your JOURNAL, pointing out several important errors in it, which, if not typographical, must have been written by a person who is not well versed in the subject of Numismatics. The first error, which I have but little doubt is that of the Printer, is the statement that the 1801 Dollar cost Mr. Repiton \$950. This undoubtedly should have been the Dollar of 1804, as the former is comparatively common, and must be in an unusually fine condition to command as high a price as \$10 to \$15. The one of this date alluded to as being in a Collection in Salem, Massachusetts, is the property of Mr. Stickney, who has had it for many years, and being a gentleman of ample means, and one of the very earliest Collectors of American Coins, would not, I feel sure, have been tempted to part with it for double the sum it appears he has been offered for it. Its absence would interfere considerably with the interest of his Collection, there being only four known up to the present time to exist; and if Mr. Repiton has one, it will make the fifth. The second misstatement is, that there were only eighteen Dollars struck off in the year 1838. This is again probably an error of the Printer and should have been 1836; which would be perfectly correct in regard to one variety of this Dollar, the one that has the name of Gobrecht in the field of the Dollar, the ordinary one having it on the base of the figure of Liberty. Of this latter variety there were one thousand

struck; now however they are difficult to find in a very fine state of preservation, and are valuable. These Dollars seem to have been pretty freely circulated, at least for some time, as they are frequently found in poor condition.

As the history of these Dollars is not known to more than a few Collectors, I will relate the facts connected with them, which may be relied upon, and possess considerable interest. In the year 1836, during which Mr. Patterson was Director of the Mint, instructions were given to make a Die for a Pattern Dollar for that year, and upon the production of the one first issued of the two referred to, Mr. Patterson was so highly pleased with the workmanship of it, that he insisted that Mr. Gobrecht should have his name upon it, and in accordance with the request Mr. G. inserted it between the date and the base of the Dollar, by which circumstance it is distinguished from the other variety as the "Gobrecht in the field" Dollar. The Press, in discussing the merits of this Pattern piece, made some uncall'd for remarks about the concealed German putting his name so conspicuously on the Coin, and it hurt the old gentleman's feelings so much, that he, immediately after reading this criticism, took his name off the Die. Mr. Patterson however still insisted that it should be on the Dollar, and it was then put on the base of the figure of Liberty, but in such small letters as to be scarcely discernable to the naked eye. There were, as I observed before, only eighteen of the original variety struck, and they are consequently very rare, and highly esteemed by Collectors, bringing generally from fifty to sixty Dollars. I was offered one within the past few weeks, but could not purchase it under Seventy Dollars.

The *last* error in the "San Francisco Journal" is the statement that the 1852 Silver Dollar is valued by Numismatists at from \$300 to \$500, unless the writer intended to confine this valuation to San Francisco; but if it be intended to apply generally, he is most woefully in error, as I am doubtful whether this Dollar has ever brought more in any of our Sales than \$47.50. If any of the San Francisco Numismatologists are willing to offer one-third of the lowest valuation mentioned, they can be very readily supplied. I have some reason for thinking that the article in question could not have been written with the sanction of the owner of the Collection, as within the last twelve months I had a letter from Mr. Repiton, stating that he was advised to write to me by the late Director of the Mint, Ex-Governor Pollock, in order to procure certain Coins, amongst which were enumerated all the rare Silver Coins; and it would be singular indeed if he had in the mean time procured *all* the rare pieces, as well as others he asked for, which it has taken the very few Collectors here, who have them, many years to obtain. I am sure it would be very gratifying to Collectors to learn from whom Mr. R. received, and what prices he paid for the following Coins, if he has them in his Collection: 1804 Dollar, *original*, not the re-struck Impression; 1823 and 1827 Quarter Dollars; 1802 Half Dime; and also the condition of the pieces. Possibly Mr. Applegate can obtain this information for you without any difficulty. In regard to the readiness with which the owners could sell their Collection for Fifty Thousand Dollars, I have only to say that it may be possible in San Francisco, but here it would simply be exactly the opposite; as a much finer Collection, embracing everything mentioned in the Journal referred to, with the addition of Eighteen Hundred Dollars worth of very fine and rare American Gold at the face value, has been sold within the last three weeks for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$12,000.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD COGAN.

To the Editor of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS.

To W. Elliot Woodward, Esq., of Roxbury, Mass., we are indebted for the following Extracts, the first of which—from the "Boston Evening Transcript"—refers directly to the same subject as Mr. Cogan's valuable communication, while, happily, it elucidates different points. Indirectly, it mentions Mr. Woodward's purchase of the celebrated Mickley collection, an event to which the whole of the second extract is devoted. An original communication from Mr. Woodward, on the same important incident—certainly "l'événement du jour" in American Numismatic circles—closes this interesting series of papers:

"AMERICAN COINS.—*To the Editor of the Transcript*: A paragraph headed 'A Rare Collection of American Coins', which appeared in the "Transcript" May 16, is 'going the rounds.' Being in itself improbable, and the article asserting several impossibilities, it is doubted by many if any such collection exists, and indeed no such collection *can* exist. For instance, it is said the collection contains the American silver dollar for every year from 1794 to 1866; now, from the year 1804 to 1836 no silver dollars were coined, except a few specimens from a pair of old dies, no intermediate dates being known.

"The dollar of 1804 is quite as rare and valuable as stated; so rare, indeed, and the few specimens existing so well known, as to make it highly improbable that a genuine one is to be found in California. Very few of these dollars were struck in 1804, and probably only one or two *originals* remain.

"Some time during the Administration of President Jackson, a present was received from the Imaun of Muscat, and our Government, wishing to make a proper return to that magnate, caused, amongst other things, a set of coins to be made for him, and the only dollar dies existing being those of 1804, a few pieces were struck from them, one of which was used as intended, one retained in the mint, and one found its way into a private cabinet.

"It may interest Numismatists to know that the one sent to Muscat is no longer to be found. The enthusiasm with which coin collecting is pursued may be illustrated by stating the fact that a gentleman of New York city caused an investigation to be made in the palace of the Imaun in 1865, and learned that the dollar was not there, and had not been for a long time.

"Of the two others known, one is in the possession of Col. M. J. Cohen, of Baltimore, and the other is in the well-known Mickley collection. The last was obtained many years ago from the Bank of Pennsylvania, and is, no doubt, one of the genuine issues of 1804.

"The dollar of 1838 is rare, but instead of only eighteen there must be at least one hundred, and probably many more, in cabinets at the present time. The dollar of 1852 is likewise rare, but instead of being rated at \$300 to \$500, every coin collector knows that \$40 is a high price, and the last one sold, which was not in fine condition, only brought \$11.50.

"It may be safely affirmed that no single collection contains a complete set of American coins, or even of the coins of the United States. A gentleman in Cambridge possesses the only perfect set of all the known dates and types of the U. S. gold coins, and the Mickley collection, before alluded to, which is now in possession of the writer, probably contains the only perfect set of U. S. silver to be found together, and even this lacks the half dollar of 1804; a specimen of which is claimed for a fine collection in the Empire State, but concerning the genuineness of which opinions are divided. Several collections comprise all the dates and leading types of U. S. copper coins, but no one can by any possibility contain all the varieties; several of the half-cents—those of 1796, 1842, and 1847—have been sold by auction for upwards of \$100 each, and some varieties of the cents are very valuable. Several collections of the regular mint coinage in copper could be mentioned which are probably worth more than \$2000 each.

* * * * *

W.

NUMISMATICS.

"The largest transaction in coins, as matters of curiosity, of which we have ever heard, and certainly the largest ever made in this country, took place two weeks since. We allude to the purchase of the celebrated Mickley collection in Philadelphia, by Mr. Woodward, of this city. The exact price paid has not been made public, but by those who are best acquainted with the subject, it is variously set at from \$12,000 to \$16,000, and those competent to judge, estimated the collection to be worth at least \$20,000, at present prices; had it been offered for sale, say two years ago, it would without doubt have realized \$40,000.

"Mr. Mickley, the former owner, who is a true collector, one who, coming into possession of a rarity, never entertains the idea of parting with it, has refused for years the most tempting offers, and probably would never have sold out, but that a few weeks ago he was robbed of a portion of his foreign silver coins. This excited in his mind an apprehension that, on the next visit of the burglars, they might not be satisfied with robbery alone; and, as he expressed it, his determination to sell suddenly became as strong as it had formerly been never to do so.

"An enumeration of the rarities would be impossible in this article, indeed they are numbered by thousands, and those pieces which are probably unique would alone require quite a book for their full description.

"No other collection contains a full set of the silver United States series, all of which are here, if we except the half dollar of 1804, the existence of which is doubted by many of the best numismatists. This contains the rare half dime of 1802, one specimen of which, at a New York auction, brought \$360. The quarter dollar of 1827, worth more than \$200. That of 1823, scarcely less valuable. The crowning gem of the whole collection is perhaps the dollar of 1804; of this coin but four are known, and this and possibly one other are the only *originals*. The others were struck at a subsequent period. Such is the rarity of the coin, that for one of the latter, \$1000 has been many times offered and refused. Had this dollar been offered at auction two years ago, it is difficult to say where competition would have ceased, certainly far up in the hundreds, possibly amongst the thousands.

"The United States series in gold, though not complete, is nearly so, lacking only three or four important pieces. The copper series, like the silver, is not only complete as regards dates, but is very rich in rarities. The other American departments are scarcely less noticeable, especially the Colonial coins and medals.

"Ancient coins are largely represented, especially the Greek and Roman. The Anglo-Saxon series is very fine: one penny, of one of the early kings, we forget which, seemingly a very insignificant coin, cost Mr. Mickley in London \$67.50.

"Unfortunately the German and French silver suffered greatly by the burglary alluded to, and the English did not escape. Several of the rare pound pieces in silver, the Commonwealth and Cromwell coins, and many others, of even greater rarity and value, being amongst the missing. Enough, however, remain to leave the English collection still very valuable. We noticed particularly a great number of the beautiful specimen coins struck for collectors, and known as proofs; also many of the very rare pattern pieces, so called.

"Thousands of specimens from Continental Europe, from Asia and Africa, from South America and Mexico, representing the coinage of all ages, and nations, with a vast accumulation of medals, tokens, and so forth, go to give completeness to this immense collection.

"We learn that Mr. Woodward, who has already made no less than ten large coin sales in New York City, two of which we may mention, in passing, amounted to more than \$26,000, intends to offer this entire lot at public sale in that city, as soon as the catalogue can be made ready, probably in October next. American numismatists should feel under great obligations to Mr. W. for securing the collection for sale in this country, instead of allowing it to go abroad, which it probably would have done, had he not purchased it. Mr. Mickley has for many years contested with the British Museum for the purchase of rare coins at the London sales, and without doubt that institution would gladly avail itself of the opportunity to buy at once a collection which the world cannot duplicate. Indeed, it seems a pity that this cabinet should not be purchased entire by the Government, or by some of our historical societies or institutions of learning, and so be kept together, instead of coming under the ruthless hammer of the auctioneer."—*Norfolk County (Mass.) Journal.*

To the Editor of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:

As the Numismatic Collection of Joseph J. Mickley, of Philadelphia, is widely known by reputation, a few facts concerning it may be of interest to the readers of the JOURNAL.

Till within a few months it has been conceded by all that this was the most extensive and valuable cabinet in the country; but for the last year that distinction was no longer claimed for it, Mr. Wm. S. Appleton, of Boston, having made such great additions to his previously valuable collection as to place it unmistakably in advance of all others. Mr. Mickley commenced collecting about fifty years ago, and is not only the oldest collector in the country, but one of the earliest.* His coins have always been freely exhibited to any, whether numismatists or mere curiosity-seekers; and though he has in several instances suffered from thieves, it has usually been his good fortune to detect them and recover the property. To this rule there have been exceptions. Some years since several gentlemen (!) from the South called on him and examined his coins. No sooner had they gone than he missed several gold pieces of great value, but, though certain of their fate, he allowed the theft to pass without notice. Less fortunate, apparently, was a young man from New England, who, introduced to Mr. M. by friends, was allowed free access for days to his cabinets, but was finally found to be committing wholesale robbery by helping himself to a great number of most valuable ancient coins. Caught in the act, the young man returned the pieces; and, overwhelmed with shame, made humble apologies, with earnest promises of future well-doing. Mr. Mickley, with a kindness quite characteristic of the man, forgave him, and has to this day kept his name a secret.

For several years past Mr. Mickley has often been importuned to sell his collection; but though most tempting offers have been made, he has steadfastly refused, till, as your readers are aware, he was robbed on Saturday, April 13th, of a portion of his coins. The burglar probably entered the house in the day-time, and concealing himself in an attic till about eight o'clock in the evening, descended to the sleeping-room of Mr. M., where, lighting a match, he probably took a hasty view of the premises. He then in the dark proceeded to remove the lid from a large square box in which the coins were contained, and taking from the bed a pillow-case, he put into it as much silver as could be conveniently carried, and departed, first throwing from a back window into the area a pair of shoes, the fall of which attracting the inmates of the house to that locality, gave him an opportunity to escape unobserved.

The box in which the coins were kept was large enough to contain a series of sheets of bookbinders' board, each something more than two feet square. On these sheets the coins were arranged in order, the sheets placed one over another, and the lid of the box fastened by a number of large screws.

The robber carried off all, or nearly all, comprised on four of the sheets, and a portion of those that were on a fifth; in addition to which he broke open a small drawer in a secretary in the same room, and took therefrom a quantity of valuable American duplicates, amongst the rest some rare proofs and dollars of scarce dates. The value of the coins taken could not, as metal, exceed eight or ten hundred dollars; though, as a portion of the collection, they were worth two or three times that amount. The French and German series suffered most; and the English did not escape, though of the latter enough remain to leave the collection still very valuable, and of the former many precious things were left.

Most fortunately, the entire American collection had been removed from the room only a few days before, arranged in a cabinet, and deposited in another place, so that it is still absolutely intact. The coins stolen can be replaced for money, but had the American collection been taken the world

* An account of the early American numismatists and collectors would be of great interest and value. Will not some reader of the JOURNAL supply it? Amongst these pioneers the names of Andrews of Boston, Watkins of Salem, Roper of Philadelphia, and Bach of Brooklyn, occur to the writer; others equally prominent might be mentioned, both amongst the living and the departed.

could not have duplicated it, and its loss would have been of almost national importance. After the robbery Mr. M. became apprehensive that he might be again visited by the burglar; and, fearing that on his next visit he might add murder to robbery, he determined to part with his long cherished treasures. Various tempting offers, ranging from \$10,000 to \$12,000, and more, were made by parties in New York and Philadelphia; but the coins were purchased by the writer for a sum deemed more satisfactory by the owner than any other offered. An idea of the value of the coins even now may be given by stating that the present owner is informed that \$15,000 could have been had for them in New York on the day they were sold. The collection is so well known that it seems scarcely necessary to enumerate any portion of the rarities which it contains; but, passing over the foreign portions, which are much more extensive than the American, it may be stated that the United States mint series contains all the rare gold coins, with the exception of perhaps five or six. The silver series is complete, if we except the half dollar of 1804, the existence of which is questioned. The copper series contains all dates of cents and half cents, and many rare varieties of both. Of the ninety-six half cents, two types; of the 1793 cent, thirteen varieties. All the mint coins are of excellent quality.

In confirmation of this statement, the facts are mentioned, that about half of all the pieces are proofs, and that there are proof sets for thirty-one years, with sets almost complete for some eight or ten years more.

In the Colonial Department are many pieces of great rarity, and a large number considered unique. Of the former class are three varieties of the "Liber Natus"; the "Sommer Islands piece"; all the varieties of the "Immune Columbia", including the silver "Constellatio", likewise the New Jersey reverse; New Jersey cent, with date under the plough-beam; two varieties of the "Higley"; "Carolina Copper"; and many others equally noteworthy which are necessarily omitted. Of unique pieces: the "Maryland Penny"; the "New England copper"; the "New England stiver"; the "Florida Piece"; and several others, equally deserve attention. Amongst the Washingtons are some of great rarity. One variety of the Washington Cent and the Washington Confederatio are without doubt unique, and several others are scarcely known. The rare medals are very numerous. In the minor departments are many rare politicals, store cards, &c.

As soon as a catalogue can be prepared, it is proposed to sell the entire collection by auction, at the Book Trade-Sale Rooms of Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., in New York City. As the catalogue will be very extensive, the number printed will be small; and all collectors, who are desirous of obtaining copies, are requested to address the present owner of the collection, at Roxbury, Mass. No charge will be made for the catalogues, but they can in no case be sent to any but collectors.

The sale, it is hoped, will take place about the last of October.

W.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Editor AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:

Has not the author of the article in your last number, entitled "The Antiquary in New York," been a little hasty in asserting that Limerick gave to Governor Dongan "his eventual title", in other words, that he succeeded to the title of "Earl of Limerick"? Even Dunlap, who is anything but a careful or accurate historian, does not venture to state this as a fact. He observes—(Vol. II., p. cxxxv.)—that Gordon says so, and that Smith says that it was so said. If it had been a well-ascertained thing, these writers or others would have found it out, and enabled Dunlap, who seems to have been interested in the fortunes of the Governor's family, to record it with positiveness. For my part I doubt it altogether.

Yours, with respect,

CURIOSUS.

If "Curiosus" will seek out a book of some rarity called "Monumenta Anglicana", 1700-1715, by John Le Neve, London, 1717, and turn to p. 295, he will find there, transcribed by that compiler from a Stone in St. Pancras Churchyard, Middlesex, the following Epitaph, which we presume will clear away his doubts. It has never before appeared in any American book, and as it is a most interesting "Pièce Justificative" of the annals of our City and State, we are glad that our critic's somewhat *brusque* interrogation has given us occasion to insert it:

THE RIGHT HONBLE THOMAS DONGAN,
EARL OF LYMERICK, DIED DECEMBER
THE FOURTEENTH. AGED EIGHTY-ONE YEARS.

1715.

Requiescat in pace. AMEN.

It is well-known that Governor Dongan was a Roman Catholic, and the place of his interment is in entire accordance with his religious profession. We read in "Memories of the Great Metropolis", New York, 1852, p. 247: "Old St. Pancras, built in the twelfth century, is one of the churches mentioned in the Doomsday survey. The Churchyard is small, but excessively crowded with ancient monuments, the majority being Catholic." From another authority we gather that the church and churchyard of Pancras have long been noted as the burial-place of such Roman Catho-

lics as die in London and its vicinity. Strype, in his additions to Stowe, says the Roman Catholics have of late *affected* to be buried at this place. Many of the tombs exhibit a cross, and the initials R. I. P. (Requiescat in pace), which initials, or others analogous to them, are always used by the Catholics on their sepulchral monuments. The reason generally given for this preference of Pan-eras as a burial-place, is that it was the last church in England where mass was performed after the Reformation. *London Mirror*, vol. xix., for 1832, p. 289.

Editor AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:

An Italian gentleman of my acquaintance is desirous that I should purchase of him two silver coins, of the size of a Five Franc Piece. I think that he attaches to them an exaggerated value. They appear to be Venetian; but I will describe them, and, without naming the price demanded, will ask you to explain their nature, if you will kindly take that trouble, and also to inform me, if you please, how much you think they are worth. I ought to add that they are in very fine condition.

No. 1. Obv. A Winged Lion holding a Book. Legend: "Repubblica Veneta . 22 Marzo 1848". Rev. In a Wreath of Laurel and Oak: "5 Lire". Legend: "Unione Italiana".

No. 2. Obv. A Winged Lion holding a Book, and standing on a Pedestal inscribed "XI Agosto MDCCCXLVIII". Legend: "Indipendenza Italiana". Exergue: "Venezia". Rev. In a Wreath of Oak: "5 Lire". Legend: "Alleanza dei Popoli Liberi 1848". Do me the favor to answer in next "Queries and Replies", and thereby oblige,

Yours, very truly,

R. R. R.

We are able to communicate some interesting details in regard to the pieces mentioned above. They are both of them memorials of the unsuccessful insurrection of Venice against her Austrian masters in the year 1848, suppressed by the octogenarian Marshal Radetzky, who bombarded and captured the city in August, 1849. They were issued from the Zecca, or Mint, at Venice; and the winged lion of St. Mark holding the open book of the Gospel is the ancient device of the republic. The inscriptions are easy to translate. The date on the first coin, March 22, 1848, is that of the breaking out of the revolution; that on the second, Aug. 11, 1848, seems to have been designed—observes Flagg, in his "Venice; the City of the Sea", N. Y. 1853, II, 36,—“to commemorate the resumption of the Republic after the annexation to Piedmont had been dissolved.” Silver coins of the same size were struck at Milan, during these unsuccessful revolutionary movements, the Obv. bearing a full length figure of Italy with a mural crown and a lance, and the legend: “Italia Libera Dio Lo Vuole”: Italy Free, God wills it! Gold coins with the same figures and mottoes were struck in both places, and for these we have heard that the Italian ladies liberally contributed their jewelry to be melted. The silver coinage also was doubtless composed in a great degree of melted plate. We have never chanced to see any of the gold pieces. The silver ones are not uncommon at auction-sales, where however they bring low prices, not above two dollars each. They are worth more however, both as memorials of a gallant struggle, and on account of their rarity. In the interval between the suppression of the insurrection and Austria's final expulsion from Italy, they were destroyed in great numbers. The author already cited remarks: “But few of these coins are now to be met, whether of gold or of silver, so industrious has been the Imperial Government in effacing every vestige of the Revolution since its return. To possess and retain one of the larger coins is a crime!”

To SUBSCRIBERS.—The space required for matter of *immediate interest*, within the limited compass of pages to which we are still restricted, has led us to postpone, for the moment, the publication of the concluding “Table of Confederate Currency.” Meanwhile, let our kind readers remember that our subscription list is not yet sufficient to cover even the expense of our present monthly issue of but twelve or sixteen pages; and while we return our hearty thanks to some who have done wonders in procuring names for us, we urge on others the necessity of a little exertion in our behalf, if they would continue after the present year of publication, to receive their periodical numismatic intelligence. If every subscriber will ask a friend or two, or a few relatives, no matter whether they be numismatists or not, as a personal favor to himself, to come into our fold, and contribute to our support, the cause will be as much strengthened as if these new-comers were true believers in Numismatics; and we, on our part, will do our best to make them, ultimately, proselytes and converts to the faith. Hence good will result to all of us. Many brethren have already done this. Why should not you, kind reader?

It will be observed that, owing to superabundance of material, the present number contains sixteen pages. We reserve to ourselves the right to reduce the size of future numbers to twelve, or even to the original eight pages, should our subscription list not increase in the ratio required for the justification of the enlargement. Particularly do we claim this privilege for the Summer months at least, when, human energies flagging, and fresh green leaves being more attractive than old green copper, we may look for a smaller amount of those kind contributions both to editor's drawer and bank-account, with which we have thus far been favored.

If, however, the Numismatic public shall stand manfully by us, they may rest assured that neither in this respect, nor in any other, shall we fail to do our whole duty by them.